

it were cheaper to produce electricity today by using solar and wind and other alternatives, we would be doing it. That's the American way. That's the commerce of the circumstances, but it is not. And so, as we look at these proposals that will require how we go about providing America with the electricity and energy we need over the next decades, let's don't forget that there is a cost associated with it. We ought to know that cost. We ought to know the cost to consumers and to the businesses that have to use that energy.

There's an old saying, "If you don't like the high cost of eggs, then why would you kill chickens?" Let's be careful that with this new energy policy that's being proposed, that we don't, in fact, kill the chickens that produce the eggs that generate the electricity and the energy that we need.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS FIGHTING FOR MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES IN AN UNCERTAIN ECONOMY

(Mr. CARDOZA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, with home values dropping and the cost of health care, home heating oil and college education continuing to rise, American families are justifiably uneasy about their ability to make ends meet in a declining economy.

The Democratic Congress has made protecting middle-class families its highest priority. Over the course of this year, we have passed billions in tax relief for American small businesses, increased the minimum wage for the first time in a decade, passed legislation that cuts taxes for middle-class families and given families the most financial assistance for college since the GI Bill.

The New Direction Congress is also working to reach bipartisan agreements to address the subprime loan crisis and predatory loan practices that are threatening to force thousands of American families from their homes. Today, we will bring a comprehensive energy bill to the floor that will provide some much-needed relief at the gas pump as well.

Madam Speaker, the needs and concerns of our Nation's working families remain one of this Congress' top priorities.

DEMOCRATS' ENERGY BILL

(Mr. RADANOVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, energy independence is one of the most critical issues facing our Nation. This Congress has a responsibility to the American family to ease the burden they're feeling at the gas pump and reduce the cost of heating America's

homes this winter. Unfortunately, this Democrat majority is either unwilling or unable to accept that responsibility.

The majority wants to place unrealistic Federal mandates on renewable electricity that will drive up the cost of utilities and mandates on renewable fuel that will increase the cost of food at the supermarket.

The American public wants results. That means increasing domestic oil and gas production, building petroleum refineries for the first time in 30 years, and expanding the use of nuclear energy. Instead, the static electricity created by my shoes rubbing across this carpet creates more energy than the Democrats' energy bill.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, as evidence mounts about the growing risk of climate change and dependence on foreign oil, this Congress has a duty to enact responsible legislation that reduces our impact on the environment. Today, we will do just that by considering the Energy Independence and Security Act, which includes critical provisions to not only reduce global warming, but create new American jobs by harnessing the best of American innovation and technology.

This energy bill creates a program to train a skilled green workforce in our Nation, and could lead to the creation of nearly 3 million green jobs over the next 10 years. It increases loan limits for small businesses to help them develop energy efficient technologies, and increases investment in small firms developing renewable energy. It also includes landmark fuel efficiency standards, renewable electricity standards, and energy efficiency programs that will save businesses and consumers money, while reducing carbon emissions. This new energy bill is a big step for the U.S. in the right environmental direction, and it deserves the support of every Member of this Congress.

PELOSI BILL WILL MAKE US MORE DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN ENERGY

(Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Does the energy bill help Americans who are struggling to heat their homes and drive their cars? For affordable energy, the answer is no.

Despite claims to the American public that they will put policies in place to achieve energy independence, the Democrats' energy bill will not produce a single BTU of energy.

To achieve energy independence, we must replace imported energy with our

domestic resources. Unfortunately, the Pelosi bill will make us more dependent on foreign energy, not less.

The Democrat bill relies on much-needed conservation through increased CAFE standards 13 years from now, which will change the fleet, and the production of 15 percent of our electricity from renewables, hardly enough to replace the 13 million barrels of oil we import every day.

If we want to achieve energy security and reduce our dependence on foreign energy, we must increase domestic production of oil and gas in America's energy-rich areas.

As American families and small businesses continue to tighten their belts to cope with soaring energy costs, Congress should be doing everything in their power to relieve this unnecessary burden. Yet today the House is taking a step in the opposite direction, increasing our dependence on energy from foreign, unstable countries.

DEMOCRATIC HOUSE WORKING ON BEHALF OF PROGRESS

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, how many times is President Bush going to hold the same press conference, hammering away at Congress just because we're meeting our responsibilities under article I and restoring Americans' faith in the future? Doesn't he understand that the American people chose to put Democrats in control of Congress for a reason?

All year long we have been working to take our Nation in a new direction and restore that faith in the future. In some instances, the President has joined our efforts. We worked together to fully implement the 9/11 Commission recommendations, increase the minimum wage, and make college more affordable for millions of college students. Unfortunately, in almost every other instance, President Bush has stood in the way of real progress. He refused to help us provide quality health coverage for 10 million children. He rejected our efforts consistently to change course in Iraq. And he has threatened to veto our appropriations bills that truly prioritize our domestic needs.

Madam Speaker, President Bush has every right to be frustrated by his lack of accomplishments, but he has nobody to blame but himself. He needs to stop standing in the way of progress.

LET'S DO AWAY WITH EARMARKS

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I got a kick out of a recent warning made by the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. He cautioned Members that if congressional negotiators were forced to make additional cuts in

this year's spending bills, that he just might do away with all earmarks in the bill. Well, that may pass for a threat here in Washington, but taxpayers all over the country are applauding.

Despite the perception that many in Congress seem to have that taxpayers are eagerly awaiting the completion of appropriation bills to see if their earmarks ended up in the bill for their hometown, taxpayers, whether they're Republicans or Democrats, are applauding. They think that earmarks are a waste of money.

Chairman OBEY has said on many occasions that if it were up to him, he would do away with earmarks altogether; they are a waste of his time and his committee's resources. I couldn't agree more. In fact, I can't think of a better Christmas present to Chairman OBEY than releasing him from the stress and hassle of having to deal with our earmarks. I'm sure he would be grateful, and our constituents would be grateful even more.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER CONNECTICUT GOVERNOR WILLIAM O'NEILL

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of former Governor William O'Neill, who passed away on November 24, 2007.

Bill O'Neill is today recognized as one of the giants of Connecticut history. He served as Governor from 1980 to 1982, and was a leader who had a commonsense, compassionate vision of government, raising teachers' salaries, rebuilding our roads, and creating a pathbreaking prescription drug benefit for seniors.

In Connecticut over the last 2 weeks, there has been an outpouring of affection for the Governor and his wonderful surviving wife, Nikki, partly because of his great work for the people, but also because of the plainspoken, humble way he carried himself in the State's highest office.

As the Irish would say, Bill O'Neill never put on airs. And that is why last week, at a funeral service at St. Patrick's Church in his beloved East Hampton, the same church he served as an altar boy and the same church he faithfully attended for over 70 years, people from all walks of life came to pay tribute to him and Nikki and honor a man who set a beautiful example for us all, of service, decency and compassion.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring Governor O'Neill's contributions to Connecticut and offer sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

ENERGY BILL IS A TERRIBLE DEAL FOR AMERICANS

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, three things are certain to occur because of the Democrat's energy bill: First of all, it's going to make cars more expensive, it will force taxes to be raised, and it will cost American jobs.

The imposition of higher CAFE standards combined with a regulatory nightmare of the EPA regulating tail pipe emissions and NHTSA regulating fuel economy will force the domestic auto companies to expend billions on regulatory compliance with the cost passed along to consumers, of course.

Some estimate that the cost of this will be as much as \$85 billion. This means that the cost of an American automobile will rise as much as \$5,000 to \$10,000 per vehicle. And worst of all, the new mandates will actually force automakers to outsource more vehicle production in an effort to reduce their costs and to remain competitive, which will cost more American jobs.

This is simply a terrible deal for American consumers, American taxpayers, and American workers. It will result in a hidden tax on cars, higher taxes on gas, and less jobs in America. Our Nation needs a comprehensive energy policy, but this bill misses the mark badly.

FINALLY A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY BILL

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Today we will vote on a comprehensive energy bill, finally. This country has waited 32 years for an increase in mileage standards. Thirty-two years. We have also waited for Congress to focus on renewables, green jobs and energy conservation in buildings and appliances. This bill will do that. This bill will also help free our Nation from dependence on foreign oil.

When Newt Gingrich was sworn in as Speaker, we were 41 percent dependent on foreign oil. We are now 61 percent dependent on foreign oil. This is a risk to our national security. This bill will help our pocketbooks, it will help our environment, and it will help our national security. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

HONORING THE LIFE OF REPRESENTATIVE HENRY HYDE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, last week, America lost a true statesman when Henry Hyde passed away at the age of 83.

Representative Hyde was a student of American history, a constitutional scholar, a thoughtful legislator, and a skillful orator. But above all, he will be remembered as a man of integrity who

stood for the most basic principles of liberty, justice, and, above all, respect for life.

On November 5, President Bush awarded Mr. Hyde the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the very highest honor the President can bestow on an American citizen.

In his first term, Henry Hyde offered an amendment that ensured that Americans who believe in the sanctity of life would not see their taxpayer dollars go to the funding of abortion. That was just the beginning of Henry's long legislative career spent working to protect the sanctity of human life.

I urge the Democrat leadership to bring the bipartisan H. Res. 843 to the floor for a vote. It would be a mark on this body if we did not honor the life and work of a man of character like Henry Hyde.

ADMINISTRATION'S MISPLACED PRIORITIES

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to oppose the latest demonstration of this administration's misplaced priorities.

President Bush wants to slash \$2 billion in funding that will help our police and other first responders protect Americans here at home from terrorists and other threats so that he can send \$3 billion over to Iraq to train police there. That money means a lot to our police and firefighters here at home. By cutting this funding, President Bush will endanger security at our ports, subways and rail lines. Further, his proposal will not allow law enforcement agencies to use grants for counterterrorism or intelligence personnel, funding which has helped the NYPD uncover and stop nearly 20 terrorist attacks.

By proposing these cuts, the President rejects the advice of the Department of Homeland Security and the 9/11 Commission and again shows his priorities are not those of the American people.

I urge the President to reconsider this request and will work with my colleagues to reverse these deeply misguided cuts to homeland security.

LIFE HAS LOST ITS LION

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. On November 29, Americans learned of the passing of one of the giants of this Congress in the 20th century. Congressman Henry Hyde of Illinois died at the age of 83.

As Members in both parties know, throughout his nearly four decades in this Congress, Henry Hyde was the essence of dignity, civility, and a commitment to principle. He was a champion of the great causes, life, liberty